

441—117.1(237) Required preservice training.

117.1(1) Providers of preservice training. The required foster parent preservice training program shall be offered by the department or by a licensed child-placing agency with a training program that has been approved by the department.

117.1(2) Preservice training program approval requirements:

a. Content. The program shall be designed to assist prospective foster parents in understanding the philosophy and goals of foster care and the skills required of a foster parent. The program shall address the following topics:

- (1) Children in foster care, their needs and rights.
- (2) Families of children in foster care, their rights and responsibilities.
- (3) Caseworkers and their role.
- (4) Foster parents, their motivation and role.
- (5) Self-assessment of foster parent's strengths.
- (6) The team effort of foster parents and caseworkers.
- (7) The impact of foster care placement on the child, the child's family and the foster family.
- (8) The purpose and importance of the child's contact with the child's family.
- (9) Training in communication and behavior management.
- (10) Permanency planning.
- (11) The reasons for placement termination and feelings involved.

The curriculum developed by the Child Welfare Institute "Partnering for Safety and Permanence: Model Approach to Partnership in Parenting" (PS-MAPP) shall be considered as meeting this requirement.

b. Length. The entire PS-MAPP program shall total at least 30 hours of contact between leaders and participants.

The department and each licensed child-placing agency offering the mandatory 30 hours of PS-MAPP training shall devise a procedure for parents to make up any portions of training which are missed.

c. Instructors. The program shall be team taught by at least one foster or adoptive parent and one casework staff person. All instructors shall be certified PS-MAPP leaders.

d. Group method. The program shall be provided in groups. The training shall be offered to a foster family individually only when the foster family is unable to attend group training.

e. Training certificate. A certificate of completion shall be provided to each foster parent who completes the training.

f. Training evaluation. A means for participants in the training to evaluate the instructors and the content shall be provided.

g. Training records. A record of the foster parents who begin and complete the training and of the training program evaluations shall be submitted to the department office for the location in which the training was provided at the end of each 30-hour PS-MAPP session.